

REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-12 have been withdrawn from consideration and claims 13-24 have been rejected. Claims 13 and 20 have been amended, claims 1-12, 14, 16, and 22-23 have been cancelled, and new claims 25-27 have been added. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 13, 15, 17-21, and 24-27 will be pending.

Amended independent claim 13 is a combination of rejected previous claim 13 and allowable previous claim 14, which has been cancelled. New independent claim 25 is a combination of rejected previous claims 13 and 14, and allowable previous claim 16, which has been cancelled. New independent claim 26 is a combination of rejected previous claims 13 and 14, and allowable previous claim 22, which has been cancelled. New independent claim 27 is a combination of rejected previous claims 13 and 20, and allowable previous claim 23, which has been cancelled.

No new matter has been introduced by the present Amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow is respectfully requested.

II. Election/Restrictions

The Examiner states that claims 1-12 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group I, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Per the Examiner's request, claims 1-12 have been cancelled herein.

III. Claim Objections

Claim 20 stands objected to because of informalities. The Examiner states that in claim 20, line 2, it appears that "(1)" should be deleted. The Examiner is correct, and claim 20 has been amended herein in order to remove this reference sign. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to claim 20 be withdrawn and the claim allowed at this time.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 13, the Examiner states that it appears that "via a signal line" should read "via a plurality of signal lines". The Examiner is correct, and claim 13 has been amended herein in order to recite that the memory module board is connect "via a plurality of signal lines". Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, of claim 13 and claims 15, 17-21, and 24 which depend therefrom, be withdrawn and the claims allowed at this time.

Regarding claim 16, the Examiner states that "the control logic" in line 2 has insufficient antecedent basis. Additionally, regarding claim 22, the Examiner states that "the control logic" in line 3 has insufficient antecedent basis. Furthermore, regarding claim 23, the Examiner states that "the delay compensation unit" in line 2 has insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 16, 22 and 23 have been cancelled herein and the subject matter thereof have been incorporated into new claims 25-27,

respectively, as described above. Therefore, applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, of claims 16, 22 and 23 are now moot.

V. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13, 15, 17-21, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,852,640 to Kliza. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 13 of the present subject matter recites a memory buffer for a memory module board which is connected via a plurality of signal lines to a plurality of memory modules mounted on the memory module board having different signal line lengths. The memory buffer comprises for each signal line a corresponding integration circuit for integrating the transmission time of a measurement pulse transmitted via the signal line between the memory buffer and a memory module connected to the signal line. Claim 13 has been amended herein to recite that the memory buffer further comprises a control logic which sends a measurement start command to the memory modules via a control line of a command and address bus. This new subject matter recited in claim 13 is the subject matter from original dependent claim 14, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable.

Kliza is directed to a clock distribution apparatus with active phase alignment which makes the incidence of a timing event occur essentially simultaneously at multiple physically remote destinations. The circuit uses traces configured as reflective transmission lines with a matched impedance input. The propagation time of a transmission line is determined by monitoring the current into the transmission line.

Variable delays are determined for each transmission line by measuring the actual propagation time and reducing a predetermined maximum delay time by that amount. The variable delay values are stored and used to retard clock edges by the varying amounts so that all clock edges arrive at respective remote destinations at a time equal to the maximum delay time. As the Examiner acknowledges, the prior art, including Kliza, does not teach or suggest, among other things, a memory buffer including a control logic which sends a measurement start command to memory modules via a control line of a command and address bus as recited in presently amended claim 13.

For the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that Kliza does not teach or suggest all of the elements recited by amended independent claim 13, and therefore claim 13 and dependent claims 15, 17-21, and 24 are not anticipated by the cited reference. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 13, 15, 17-21, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and the claims allowed at this time.

VI. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 14, 16, and 22-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, amended independent claim 13 is a combination of rejected previous claim 13 and allowable previous claim 14, which has been cancelled.

Serial No.: 10/808,143

As such, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 13 is now allowable, as are claims 15, 17-21, and 24 which depend therefrom.

Similarly, new independent claim 25 is a combination of rejected previous claims 13 and 14, and allowable previous claim 16, which has been cancelled. Also, new independent claim 26 is a combination of rejected previous claims 13 and 14, and allowable previous claim 22, which has been cancelled. Furthermore, new independent claim 27 is a combination of rejected previous claims 13 and 20, and allowable previous claim 23, which has been cancelled. As such, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 25-27 are now allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Amendments and Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. **50-0426**.

Respectfully submitted,

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REJ/EEM/gwc

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